

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**



Date: Thursday, June 14, 2007

From: Kenneth Theisen, OSC

To: David Chung, U.S. EPA
Linda Nachowicz, U.S. EPA
Rosauro Delrosario, U.S. EPA
Aaron Martin, IDPH

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Subject: Initial and Final POLREP
Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Mercury Spill
32653 5 Points Road, Kingston, IL
Latitude: 42.1053
Longitude: -88.7639

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	
Reporting Period:	June 13, 2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	6/13/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	6/13/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Completion Date:	6/13/2007	NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The Walcamp Mercury Spill is located at the Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Camp Grounds, 32653 5 Points Road, Kingston, DeKalb County, Illinois. Walcamp Outdoor Ministries Camp Grounds consist of 180 acres of forest and open fields on the Kishwaukee River in Kingston, Illinois, about 70 miles west of Chicago and 15 miles north of DeKalb, IL. Approximately 85 children, plus staff are in attendance at the camp.

At approximately 1800, on June 12, 2007, a student with a disability accidentally dropped a manometer containing mercury on the camp's dining area floor. The camp staff reported that an approximate amount of 3 table spoons of mercury was recovered. After the staff performed the cleanup, the children were allowed to have breakfast and lunch in the dining room.

Current Activities

On June 13, 2007, U.S. EPA OSC Ken Theisen followed-up with a call to the camp officials after noticing the EPA duty officer the night before had referred the incident to the Illinois EPA. The camp staff reported no contact had been made by the state and requested assistance from the U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA OSC Ken Theisen and U.S. EPA START members

Ben Maradkel and Jay Rauh arrived at the site at 1600 on June 13, 2007. OSC Theisen, START, Camp Director Deon Hull, and clean-up contractor (Safety-Kleen) Kurt Roth met and discussed U.S. EPA's planned reconnaissance and air monitoring activities of the spill area. It had been suggested to the camp officials that they contact a local environmental cleanup firm and check their insurance policy.

OSC Ken Theisen informed Mr. Hull that the children should not be allowed in the dining room area until Safety-Kleen completes its clean-up and mercury levels in the breathing zone do not exceed 1,000 nanograms per cubic meter. Staff member Heather stated that the mercury clean-up that the camp staff performed on June 12, 2007, consisted of picking up the mercury beads with a dropper and placing it into a container and mopping the floor. Camp staff member Heather also stated that the mob was bagged.

At approximately 1630, U.S. EPA and U.S. EPA START contractors began a reconnaissance of the spill area and conducted written and photo documentation. In addition, START conducted mercury air monitoring with a Lumex Mercury Vapor Analyzer (MVA). The thermostat in the dinning area read 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The air-conditioning window units were turned off and the radiator heating system was off due to the time of year. The dining room area did not have a central air system. The following are the mercury vapor readings taken at different locations:

- ☐ Outside the Office/ Dinning Area Building (background)- 16 ng/m³ Breathing Zone
- ☐ Office- 720 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 1230 ng/m³ Carpeted Floor/ 1645 ng/m³ Carpeted Floor near door that leads to dinning area
- ☐ Dinning Room/ Near down stairs stair case- 501 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 901ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor
- ☐ Dinning Room/ Spill Area- 2400 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 2100 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor
- ☐ Dinning Room/ Spill Area/ near baseboard, close to the north door- 1600 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 5700 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor (wood baseboard). Two small mercury beads were present. Duct tape was placed next to the beads for Safety-Kleen to address.
- ☐ Dinning Room/ North Side OR pop machine side- Ranged from 588 to 2400 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 683 to 5700 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor. Readings were higher from the spill area (north east portion of the room) and started decreasing walking west towards bathrooms.
- ☐ Three Dinning Room Mats- 2200 to 5100 ng/m³. EPA recommended to bag and discard the mats.
- ☐ Dinning Room/ South Side OR the side facing the outdoor deck- Ranged from 1207 to 1700 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 987 to 2183 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor. Readings were slightly higher on the south east portion of the room and decreasing walking west towards bathrooms.
- ☐ Dinning Room Bathrooms- Ranged from 206 to 298 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 800 to 821 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor/ 287 to 298 Sink Drains.
- ☐ Dinning Room Snack Room- 1125 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 1767 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor
- ☐ Dinning Room Kitchen- 600 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 300 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor
- ☐ Dinning Room Benches- 1715 ng/m³ Breathing Zone/ 1605 ng/m³ Linoleum Tile Floor/

1700 Benches

- Top of Stairs/ leading to sleep area and recreation area- 1519 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 1210 ng/m3 Stairs

- Midpoint of Stairs/ leading to sleep area and recreation area- 1422 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 1141 ng/m3 Stairs

- Bottom of Stairs/ leading to sleep area and recreation area- 1005 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 872 ng/m3 Stairs.

- Basement Sleeping Room 1- Ranged 800 to 884 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 788 to 821 ng/m3 Linoleum Tile Floor

- Basement Sleeping Room 2/ near Recreation room- 560 to 832 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 835 to 845 ng/m3 Linoleum Tile Floor/ 835 to 884 Shoes

- Basement recreation Room- 320 to 340 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 300 to 340 ng/m3 Linoleum Tile Floor

- Basement back area leading to overhead door and stairs leading up stairs- 175 to 210 ng/m3 Breathing Zone/ 218 to 245 ng/m3 Floor

- Camp Vans/ IL license plate 7087 CV and 21242 CV- Non-Detect Breathing Zone, Floor and Seats

At 1805 OSC Theisen, spoke to Aaron Martin the duty officer for the IDPH (Illinois Dept. of Public Health) and discussed EPA's findings. Mr. Martin said that IDPH uses 3,000 ng/m3 in the Breathing Zone for commercial/ schools/ camps. OSC Theisen recommended using the residential EPA clean-up level, which is 1,000 ng/m3 in the Breathing Zone, due to the camp housing young children and children with disability 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Mr. Martin offered Mr. Hull his assistance with answering questions that parents or media might have. Mr. Martin recommended that the best mercury test for potential exposed personnel is a 24-hour urine analysis and that the parents would have to fund it if requested.

At 1900, OSC Theisen turned over the site to Mr. Hull and his contractor, Safety-Kleen. OSC Theisen recommended recovering any beads that might be hidden between tiles and baseboards and begin venting the dining room area with filtered negative air units. In addition, all removable item, like tables need to be wiped with decontaminate solution and taken outside to heat and vent. Loose items like papers need to be bagged and taken outside to heat and head-spaced with a MVA. Any items that exceed 10,000 ng/m3 are recommended to be discarded. All floors were recommended to be washed with a Mercury decontamination solution (i.e. HgX).

Planned Removal Actions

Walcamp Outdoor Ministries □ Camp Grounds □ contractor will conduct a mercury clean-up and conduct air monitoring.

Next Steps

None- U.S. EPA has turned over the site to IDPH and the PRP (Walcamp Outdoor Ministries □ Camp Grounds) to handle.

Key Issues

None

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
RST/START	\$2,500.00	\$1,240.00	\$1,260.00	50.40%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$2,500.00	\$1,240.00	\$1,260.00	50.40%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

epaosc.net/WalcampMercurySpill